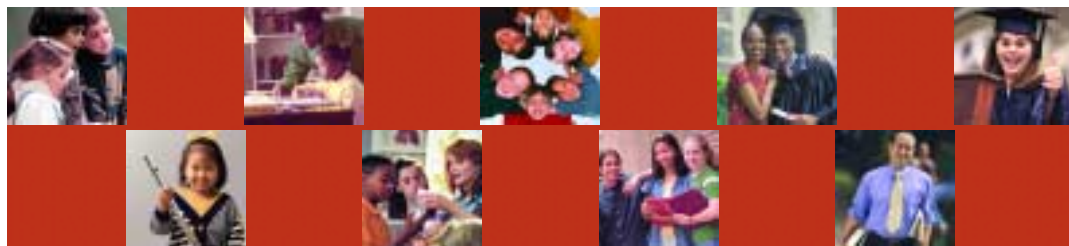


the condition of education 2003



INDICATOR 16

International Civic Participation

The indicator and corresponding tables are taken directly from *The Condition of Education 2003*. Therefore, the page numbers may not be sequential.

Additional information about the survey data and supplementary notes can be found in the full report. For a copy of *The Condition of Education 2003*, visit the NCES web site (<http://nces.ed.gov/pubsearch/pubsinfo.sap?pubid=2003067>) or contact ED PUBs at 1-877-4ED-PUBS.

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Social and Cultural Outcomes

International Civic Participation

Fifty percent of U.S. students in grade 9 participated in a community-related volunteer organization in 1999, a higher percentage than in any other country participating in the Civic Education Study.

In 1999, 28 countries, including the United States, participated in the Civic Education Study under the auspices of the International Association for the Evaluation of Educational Achievement (IEA). The study asked 14-year-olds (9th grade in most countries) to report their participation in civic-related organizations. Students in the United States were most likely to report participating in a group conducting voluntary activities to help the community (50 percent), followed by a charity collecting money for a social cause (40 percent), student government (33 percent), and environmental organizations (24 percent). Ten percent of U.S. 9th-graders reported participating in youth organizations affiliated with a political party, and 6 percent participated in human rights organizations (see supplemental table 16-1).

Compared with the international average of the 28 countries, 9th-graders in the United States reported a higher rate of participation in student government, youth organizations affiliated with a political party, environmental organizations, community-related volunteer organizations, and charities collecting money for social

causes. No significant differences were detected between the percentage of U.S. students participating in human rights organizations and the international average. The percentage of U.S. 9th-graders belonging to a community-related volunteer organization was greater than the percentage of students in any other country.

The participation rates of U.S. students in civic-related organizations can also be compared with the rates in other countries. Seven countries had a higher participation rate and 17 countries had a lower rate than the United States in student government. Only Cyprus had a higher participation rate than the United States in youth organizations affiliated with a political party, and 24 countries had a lower participation rate. In environmental organizations, Colombia and Greece had a higher participation rate, and 21 countries had a lower rate. Colombia, Cyprus, Greece, and Portugal had a higher rate of participation than the United States in human rights organizations, while 8 countries had a lower rate. Six countries had a higher participation rate and 20 countries had a lower rate than the United States in charities.

¹Student government includes student council, student government, and class or school parliament.

NOTE: Countries were instructed to select the grade in which most 14-year-olds were enrolled at the time of the study. In the United States, as in most countries, this was 9th grade.

SOURCE: Torney-Purta, J., Lehmann, R., Oswald, H., and Schulz, W. (2001). *Citizenship and Education in Twenty-Eight Countries: Civic Knowledge and Engagement at Age Fourteen*, table 7.2. Data from the International Association for the Evaluation of Educational Achievement (IEA) Civic Education Study, 1999.

INTERNATIONAL CIVIC PARTICIPATION: Number of countries by the rate of student participation in various civic-related organizations relative to the participation rate of 9th-grade students in the United States: 1999

Students' rate of participation in each country relative to the United States	Student government ¹	Youth organization affiliated with a political party	Environmental organization	Human rights organization	Group conducting voluntary activities to help the community	Charity collecting money for social cause
Significantly higher	7	1	2	4	0	6
Not significantly different	3	2	4	15	0	1
Significantly lower	17	24	21	8	27	20



FOR MORE INFORMATION:
Supplemental Note 5
Supplemental Table 16-1

International Civic Participation

Table 16-1. Percentage of 9th-grade students who reported participating in various civic-related organizations, by country: 1999

Country	Student government ¹	Youth organization affiliated with a political party or union	Environmental organization	Human rights organization	Group conducting voluntary activities to help the community	Charity collecting money for social cause
International average	28*	5*	15*	6	18*	28*
Australia	34	4*	19*	4	33*	47*
Belgium-French	22*	6*	15*	8	17*	26*
Bulgaria	14*	4*	9*	9	8*	12*
Chile	19*	4*	21	5	33*	24*
Colombia	24*	4*	40*	13*	34*	26*
Cyprus	57*	25*	20	22*	22*	48*
Czech Republic	13*	1*	13*	2*	22*	18*
Denmark	44*	4*	6*	5	32*	63*
England	19*	6*	13*	5	25*	55*
Estonia	21*	3*	8*	4	8*	10*
Finland	22*	2*	6*	2*	6*	24*
Germany	13*	5*	10*	2*	16*	23*
Greece	59*	9	32*	16*	29*	53*
Hong Kong SAR	45*	5*	12*	6	34*	37
Hungary	32	4*	28	3*	23*	18*
Italy	16*	3*	7*	3*	8*	6*
Latvia	18*	2*	7*	5	12*	9*
Lithuania	23*	1*	16*	4	7*	14*
Norway	47*	6*	16*	6	18*	84*
Poland	19*	1*	14*	3*	5*	9*
Portugal	25*	2*	25	10*	9*	20*
Romania	37	2*	13*	8	10*	13*
Russian Federation	43*	2*	12*	4	11*	7*
Slovak Republic	3*	1*	5*	1*	6*	5*
Slovenia	18*	1*	15*	4	11*	33*
Sweden	49*	7	15*	5	8*	25*
Switzerland	8*	4*	10*	3*	12*	27*
United States	33	10	24	6	50	40

*Significantly different from the United States.

¹Student government includes student council, student government, and class or school parliament.

NOTE: Countries were instructed to select the grade in which most 14-year-olds were enrolled at the time of the study. In the United States, as in most countries, this was 9th grade. See *supplemental note 5* for more information.

SOURCE: Torney-Purta, J., Lehmann, R., Oswald, H., and Schulz, W. (2001). *Citizenship and Education in Twenty-Eight Countries: Civic Knowledge and Engagement at Age Fourteen*, table 7.2. Data from the International Association for the Evaluation of Educational Achievement (IEA) Civic Education Study, 1999.

International Civic Participation

Table S16-1. Standard errors for the percentage of 9th-grade students who reported participating in various civic-related organizations, by country: 1999

Country	Student government	Youth organization affiliated with a political party or union	Environmental organization	Human rights organization	Group conducting voluntary activities to help the community	Charity collecting money for social cause
International average	0.2	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.2	0.2
Australia	1.4	0.4	1.0	0.6	1.3	1.4
Belgium-French	1.5	0.7	1.3	1.0	1.0	1.5
Bulgaria	1.0	0.6	0.9	0.8	0.8	1.0
Chile	1.0	0.4	1.1	0.5	1.4	1.0
Colombia	1.4	0.5	1.6	1.3	1.1	1.4
Cyprus	1.1	1.0	0.9	1.2	0.9	1.3
Czech Republic	0.9	0.2	1.3	0.3	1.0	1.4
Denmark	1.3	0.4	0.6	0.5	1.0	1.2
England	0.9	0.5	0.8	0.6	1.0	1.4
Estonia	1.2	0.4	0.7	0.4	0.6	0.9
Finland	1.2	0.3	0.7	0.4	0.6	1.0
Germany	0.8	0.5	0.9	0.3	0.9	1.2
Greece	1.0	0.6	1.2	0.7	1.0	1.1
Hong Kong SAR	1.1	0.5	0.7	0.4	1.1	1.2
Hungary	1.5	0.4	1.4	0.4	1.0	1.1
Italy	0.7	0.3	0.6	0.3	0.6	0.5
Latvia	1.0	0.6	1.0	0.9	1.0	0.9
Lithuania	1.0	0.3	1.4	0.4	0.5	1.0
Norway	1.2	0.5	0.9	0.5	0.9	0.8
Poland	0.9	0.3	1.6	0.5	0.6	0.8
Portugal	1.1	0.3	1.1	1.0	0.7	1.0
Romania	2.2	0.3	0.9	0.8	1.0	0.9
Russian Federation	1.9	0.4	1.6	0.8	1.5	1.1
Slovak Republic	0.4	0.2	0.7	0.2	0.7	0.9
Slovenia	0.9	0.2	0.8	0.5	0.8	1.5
Sweden	1.8	0.6	1.2	0.7	1.0	1.7
Switzerland	0.7	0.5	0.8	0.3	0.7	1.2
United States	1.5	0.9	1.2	0.6	1.4	1.5

SOURCE: Torney-Purta, J., Lehmann, R., Oswald, H., and Schulz, W. (2001). *Citizenship and Education in Twenty-Eight Countries: Civic Knowledge and Engagement at Age Fourteen*, table 7.2. Data from the International Association for the Evaluation of Educational Achievement (IEA) Civic Education Study, 1999.